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Book Notices.

The Wider Hope.

The Wider Hope. Essays and Strictures on the Doctrine and Literature of Future Punishment. By numerous writers, lay and Clerical, including Archdeacon Farrar, Dean Plumptre, Prin. Tulloch, Rev. Wm. Arthur, etc. With a paper by De Quincy, etc. New York: E. P. Dutton and Co. Pp. XVI., 436.

When Archdeacon Farrar's book of sermons entitled "Eternal Hope" appeared some years ago, a series of articles in discussion of its teachings was published in the *Contemporary Review*. These articles written by distinguished men and considering so grave and vital a subject have been collected in this book for permanent use and wider circulation. An article written by Thomas De Quincy in 1853 precedes these contributions, advocating the now familiar view that *aionios* means "pertaining to the cycle of existence that belongs to any object not individually for itself, but universally in right of its genus," thus avoiding the idea of "everlasting" as the universal meaning of the term. It is a question whether the articles as a whole deserve reprinting. That by Dr. Salmon seems to be the most concise, weighty and judicious. Readers will find food for thought and opportunity for a review of thinking on this solemn and difficult theme in these pages. A fairly complete bibliography of the subject up to about 1889 closes the volume.

Some Books on Gospel Chronology.

New Light from Old Eclipses: or, Chronology Corrected and the Four Gospels Harmonized by the rectification of errors in the received astronomical tables. By William M. Page. St. Louis: C. R. Barns. Pp. XV., 590. Price \$2.50.

The Genesis and the Exodus of the Gospel; or the two Eminent Days of our Lord Jesus Christ. A Treatise. By Rev. W. P. Ten Broeck, La Crosse, Wis.: W. J. Boycott. Pp. 80.

Chronology of Christ's Life. By Rev. Andrew P. Stout, Indianapolis: The Author. Pp. 414. Price, \$2.00.

What is uncertain is an attractive if not a fruitful field for a certain class of minds. Each writer hopes or rather believes that his book has settled the vexed question but, somehow, it persistently reappears after each solution has had time to settle itself. Such a state of things would seem to teach its own lesson to successive investigators, but up to this time it has failed to do so. Mr. Page has proved that our Lord was born about the Passover season of B. C. 3 and died on Thursday March 17th A. D. 29. But by Mr. Ten Broeck's calculation it is infallibly shown that the former event occurred Dec. 25th, B. C. 8 and the latter on March 26, A. D. 28. Mr. Stout allows that the exact date of the birth is a matter of uncertainty, but inclines to Wieseler's date of 4 B. C. The student whose time is precious hesitates to embark on this sea of

uncertainty when many a valuable hour has been lost. The books of Mr. Page and Mr. Stout contain the harmony of the gospels arranged chronologically, each according to the scheme of the respective authors. While one may well admire the industry and perseverance of these writers, it cannot be denied that much labor has gone to waste which might have been occupied in more useful studies. None of them has the correct point of view or is possessed of scientific principles which make books of this kind of real value.

Isaac and Jacob.

Isaac and Jacob: their Sins and Times. By George Rawlinson, M. A., New York: A. D. F. Randolph and Co. Pp. VIII., 186. Price \$1.00.

This book adds neither to Canon Rawlinson's reputation nor to the "Men of the Bible" series to which it belongs. It is a weak dilution of the biblical material with patches of information culled from popular writers like Geikie, Robinson, Thomson, etc., and dreary wastes of platitudinous description from the commonplace imagination of the writer. One would never know from this story that there were any difficulties in the book of Genesis needing explanation, or any thing more than a moderate degree of sin in the early career of Jacob and such as is quite excusable. The reader's time will be wasted in looking at this feeble imitation of the strong and simple narrative of Genesis.

A Popular Apologetic.

The Impregnable Rock of Holy Scripture. By the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M. P. Revised and enlarged from the Sunday School Times. Philadelphia: John D. Wattles. Pp. 358.

Mr. Gladstone's book has become well known to many among us. It has peculiar excellences and defects, but its excellences are by far the more numerous and striking. It is an endeavor to offer an argument for the Divine character of the Bible, especially the Old Testament, on the part of one who has been accustomed to weigh and estimate reasonings from the point of view of the non-specialist, the popular reasoner and persuader. Such an effort is bound to be interesting and when a mind like that of Mr. Gladstone is behind it, the findings cannot fail to command respect. A peculiar tinge of interest is added to the discussion by the introduction of illustrative material borrowed from the prehistoric antiquity of Greece, a field which this great statesman has found time extensively to cultivate. As to the results of the whole inquiry and argument, three remarks may be made, (1) it is gratifying to find that Mr. Gladstone holds that no essential breach has been made in the trustworthiness and authority of Scripture by the assaults of negative criticism, (2) still he recognizes and acknowledges practically and incidentally that the Bible is authenticated by the character of the religious element in it and not by its accuracy in historical or scientific detail, (3) the book reveals clearly the inability of any writer, however broad minded and clever he may be, to write satisfactorily about the Bible from a standpoint totally removed from the body of results which historical criticism of the Bible has established. Mr. Gladstone has essayed to do it; he has made some acute observations and offered some striking arguments; but he has fallen frequently into two extremes of *a priori* reasoning—an inheritance of his earlier days—and of generalization from insufficient and improbable data. In other words the discussion is well